

# At The Chicago Oceanarium; Or, Ms. C. Otter

by Harry Brown

*—for McKenzie*

spends most of her time in water but stays dry  
as August, the short, wooly underfur  
stuffed with air, Mother's best comforter  
that keeps Ms. C most cozy. Moreover, with this life jacket  
she'll never drown, and with her arctic cloak  
of airy hair lined with blubber never shiver.  
Ms. Otter grows more hair per square inch  
than any other sibling on our earth—  
as much as three such folks like us can sprout.  
Wearing but her coat of fat—no outer shell  
of hairy air—Ms. Otter would need to eat  
each day one quarter of her pounds to feed  
her furnace.

To stay afloat and keep her house  
dry and clean, Ms. Otter knows she orta—  
and thus does—comb and blow into her fur,  
while Mother's oil and air waterproof her roof.